

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
Washington

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Press Service  
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Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, today urged that thrifty Americans return their coin savings to circulation to ease the production strain on the Mint establishments and at the same time save tons of metals vital to the war by lessening the demands for new coins.

The Director suggested that thrift accumulations of coins be converted into War Savings Stamps and Bonds, freeing the money for business use.

Mint coinage operations have been on a 24-hour-a-day basis for two years, placing an extraordinary burden upon personnel and equipment. More than thirty tons of metal a day passes through the presses at the Philadelphia Mint alone.

Demand is greatest for one-cent pieces, and it is the penny that can be disgorged in greatest quantities from children's banks and sugar bowls, Mrs. Ross believes.

The Director cited a letter received from a former Mint employee now in the Navy. He had read of the critical need for metals in war production and reports of studies being made looking to possible use of plastic coins.

This former guard from the Mint Service told Mrs. Ross he had found enough pennies in bureau drawers and other caches about his home to buy a \$25 War Bond. His and many similar letters have been received at the Mint urging others to trade their coins for stamps.

More than a billion coins of various denominations were turned out by the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco Mints last year, five times the volume of a few years back.

The increased use of smaller coins is due to such factors as increased popularity of vending machines and entertainment devices, application by many states of sales taxes, to the general increase in business activity, as well as to the accumulation of savings.